Croom Launch and Control Nike Site (MD-230 & 231)
Prince George's County, Maryland
(W-35)

Site Location

The Croom Nike site is located in Upper Marlboro, Prince George's County, Maryland. The site consists of a 13.27-acre former launch area near Duvall road and a 13-acre former control area on Mt. Calvert Road.

The former launch area is bordered by farmland, rural residential areas and woods. The property includes former barracks, two missile magazines and associated launch pads, and structures currently used for classrooms, automotive mechanics vocational training and storage.

The former control area is bordered by rural residential areas. This property includes structures currently used for classrooms, administrative offices, daycare and a cafeteria. In addition, a basketball court, pool and locker rooms are on the property.

Site History

From the 1950s until the 1960s, the property was used by the Army as a Nike air defense missile site. Nike missile batteries were active in the United States during that time frame as part of a defense system designed to defend against foreign bomber and missile penetrations.

This site was deactivated in the mid-1960s. Since that time, Prince George's County has used the properties for vocational schools, including an automobile maintenance training operation at the former launch area.

Environmental Investigations

In 1985, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers contracted EA Engineering to conduct a site assessment of the former launch area. Four monitoring wells were installed and low levels of chlorobenzene, dichloroethene, toluene and trichloroethene were detected in groundwater samples. The Maryland Waste Management Administration sampled approximately 40 residential wells in the vicinity of the site in 1986, and organic compounds were detected in eight samples. These eight wells were resampled the same year, and volatile organic compounds were confirmed in one of the eight wells (1,2-dichloroethane at 4 parts per billion (ppb), tetrahydrofuran at 56 ppb and 2-butanone at 31 ppb).

The Corps of Engineers retained EA Engineering to conduct a Remedial Investigation in 1989. Four additional monitoring wells were installed for this effort. Samples were collected from eight monitoring wells, an on-site production well, several residential wells, surface water, sediment, and soil. This effort confirmed the presence of trichloroethene (100-130 ppb) and 1,2-dichloroethane (9-11 ppb) in one monitoring well sample.

In 1992, a Screening Site Inspection report was completed by Halliburton NUS for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). This report confirmed the results of the previous investigations in accordance with EPA documentation requirements.

Supplemental Remedial Investigation activities were conducted by the Corps of Engineers during 1996-97. These activities confirmed the presence of trichloroethene in the groundwater although at lower levels (30 ppb) than prior samples.

A draft Feasibility Study (FS) was published in 1998 by the Corps of Engineers. This document screened several remedial alternatives and carried two through a complete evaluation: no further action and monitored natural attenuation. The Corps of Engineers has been communicating with the Federal Facilities Section to determine the appropriate action and finalize the FS.

Current Status

The completion of the FS is pending the availability of funding.

Future Activity

No information available.

Contact

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